

Previously, the applicant has respectfully pointed out that the claims recite features not anticipated by Hartung et al. In particular, such features include "modifying said selected coefficient so as to represent an auxiliary data symbol", as recited in Claims 1 and 17, and "transform coefficients obtained by transform coding the information signal, modified so as to represent said symbols", as recited in Claims 13, 18 and 20. However, despite this point, the above rejections have been maintained.

In maintaining these rejections, it was stated Figure 6 clearly shows that "after the inverse quantization we have one DCT coefficient of the current block". It was further stated that we then add the corresponding DCT coefficient from the transformed watermark block.

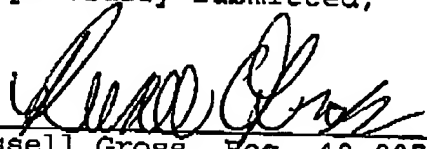
Based on the above statements, Hartung et al. only takes a coefficient from a watermarked block and adds it to the same coefficient in an unwatermarked block. Thus, it is evident that Hartung et al. does not modify the coefficient to represent any kind of symbol. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Hartung et al. does not anticipate the presently recited "modifying said selected coefficient so as to represent an auxiliary data symbol" or "transform coefficients obtained by transform coding the information signal, modified so as to

transform coding the information signal, modified so as to represent said symbols".

In view of the above-described distinctions, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of Claims 1-21 is neither anticipated nor made obvious by Hartung et al. alone or in combination with Prior Art Figure 1D. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn so that the present application may proceed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee (except the issue fee) to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

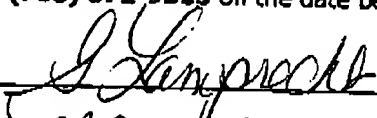
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